Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 02487 021057Z

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 DIWY-01 /031 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1855

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 2487

FOR CU/NEA; D/IWY

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: OEXC, NP

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PARTIAL IVP GRANT MRS. PUNYA P.D. DHUNGANA

- 1. MRS. PUNYA PRABHA DEVI DHUNGANA, PRESIDENT NEPAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION, HAS BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND MEETING OF FAMILY PLANNING INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION TO BE HELD IN MEXICO CITY CONCURRENTLY WITH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR (WCIWY) JUNE 19 TO JULY 2. MRS. DHUNGANA WILL DEPART KATHMANDU JUNE 8 FOR PARIS AND ROME PRIOR TO ARRIVAL MEXICO CITY JUNE 17 AND NOW PLANS TO RETURN VIA THE U.S. ROUND TRIP TRANSPORTATION IS BEING FUNDED BY FAMILY PLANNING INTERNATIONAL.
- 2. MRS. DHUNGANA IS PRESIDENT OF LARGEST WOMENS' ORGANIZATION IN NEPAL AND AS SUCH IS IN IMPORTANT PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION ON ALL MATTERS THAT AFFECT WOMEN IN THIS DEVELOPING SOCIETY. WE BELIEVE SHE WOULD BE IDEAL CANDIDATE FOR PARTIAL GRANT THE MORE SO IN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR.
- 3. BIO-DATA: BORN IN KATHMANDU IN 1924 AND HAS BEEN PRESIDENT OF NWO SINCE 1971. PRIOR TO THAT TIME SHE WAS ACTIVE IN VARIETY OF WOMENS' CAUSES IN COUNTRY (FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT TO ALL NEPAL WOMENS UNION). SHE HAS BEEN ACTIVE POLITICAL FIGURE, AS WELL, HAVING FOUGHT AGAINST RANA REGIME AS EARLY AS 1946 (DEPARTED FROM KATHMANDU THAT DATE) AND LED MOVEMENT TO SAFEGUARD POLITICAL PRISONERS' RIGHTS IN THAT PERIOD. UNTIL 1960 SHE WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSOCIATED WITH NEPALI CONGRESS PARTY. ALTHOUGH SHE HAS NEVER

VISITED U.S., SHE HAS ATTENDED INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS IN PRC, USSR, FINLAND, BURMA, THAILAND, NORTH KOREA AND AUSTRALIA.

4. MRS. DHUNGANA IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN PROBLEMS OF FAMILY PLANNING AND UNIQUE ROLE OF WOMEN IN NATIONAL DEVS LOPMENT. AS PRESIDENT OF PANCHAYAT CLASS ORGANIZATION SHE HOLDS OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POSITION AND PLAYS LEADING ROLE IN ANY MAJOR POLICY

ISSUE WHICH WOULD INVOLVE WOMEN PER SE.

- 5. RECOMMEND THAT PARTIAL GRANT BE GIVEN FOR SEVEN DAY STAY IN U.S. UPON CONCLUSION OF MEXICO CITY MEETIXG. ALTHOUGH RMS. DHUNGANA SPEAKS HEAVILY ACCENTED ENGLISH, HER COMPREHENSION LEVEL IS HIGH. WHILE FULL ESCORT IS NOT ABSOLUTELY NECESSRY, BELIEVE ESCORT SERVICES WOULD BE DESIRABLE. RECOMMEND THREE DAYS PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON REVOLVING AROUND OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE ROLE OF WOMEN IN U.S. AND ABROAD, FOLLOWED BY FOUR DAY PROGRAM IN NEW YORK TO MEET WOMEN OFFICIALS IN HEALTH, EDUCATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE A SEVEN DAY WEST COATS PROGRAM INCLUDING LOS ANGELES, SAN FRANCISCO, HAWAII.
- 6. REQUEST CONCURRENCE ASAP SO THAT LETTER OF INVITATION CAN BE GIVEN TO HER BY COB JUNE 5. ${\tt QUAINTON}$

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Subject: PROPOSED PARTIAL IVP GRANT MRS. PUNYA P.D. DHUNGANA

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To: STATE

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